

I573.3  
I29pop  
c.3



Archaic

Woodland

Mississippian

Historic

# Peoples of the Past

**Four Educational Posters  
Including Facts and Activities  
About Native Americans in Illinois**



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 121904681

# Peoples of the Past

## Four Educational Posters Including Facts and Activities About Native Americans in Illinois

by

Nina R. Walthall, ISM Assistant Curator of Education

Dr. Michael D. Wiant, ISM Curator of Anthropology

Dr. Robert E. Warren, ISM Curator of Anthropology

Jessica L. White, ISM Monticello Intern in Museum Education

### Introduction

Much of what we know about past life in Illinois comes from work done by archaeologists. They study materials made by humans, called artifacts, and other items left behind by people from the past. Many of these items, such as bones, stones, and plant remains, help tell a story about the people who once lived in this state.

The *Peoples of the Past* exhibition, on which this packet is based, is the result of many years of research by Illinois State Museum and other archaeologists. It highlights many of the changes in the lifestyles of Native Americans in Illinois over a period of four thousand years. Four life-size dioramas depict the changing features of everyday life, such as the foods the Native Americans ate, the tools they used to help sustain life, and the structures they built to use as homes.

This educational packet allows one to learn about the lives of early Native Americans in Illinois by exploring the illustrations, the dioramas, and the challenges following the text.

- Following the explanatory text please note the section "**Let's Take a Look at the Picture.**" This section encourages children to look closely at the dioramas to find particular details that are usually obvious.
- The section "**Use Your Imagination!**" encourages them to imagine things that are not readily visible, in order to answer questions.

Children may enlist the help of an interested adult, such as a teacher, parent, or grandparent, as they search for answers to these exciting mysteries. Most of all, everyone should have fun discovering Illinois' past!

### Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the following people for their continued support and encouragement during the course of this project:

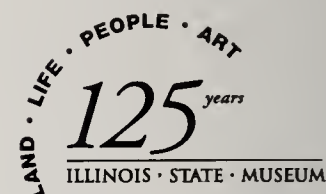
- Dr. Bonnie Styles, Amy J. Mitchell, Faye Andrashko, Gary Andrashko, and Beth Shea, of the Illinois State Museum
- Dr. Thomas E. Emerson and the following staff of the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program: Linda Alexander, Dr. Andrew C. Fortier, Mike Lewis, Amy Maroso, Angela Neller, and V. Alexander Vallese
- Barry Nehr of Artifex Studios & Design, LLC, for four of the illustrations in the Archaic and Historic sections
- Teachers Catherine Hendrickson and Betty Kay, for review and consultation

—N.R.W.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
Brent Manning, *Director*



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
R. Bruce McMillan, Ph.D.  
*Museum Director*



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Dr. George Rabb, Brookfield,  
*Chair*  
Gerald W. Adelman, Lockport,  
*Vice Chair*  
R-Lou Barker, Springfield,  
*Secretary*  
Dr. James Ballowe, Ottawa  
Jessica Jagielnik, Chicago  
Anthony J. Leone, Jr.,  
Springfield  
Mary Ann MacLean, Mettawa  
Peggy Ryder, Jerseyville  
Guerry Suggs, Springfield  
Caren Trudeau, Springfield  
Brent Manning, Pawnee,  
*Ex-officio*

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the IDNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.



Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

PRT3259261 2M 06/02  
ISBN 0-89792-164-X

# *The Archaic Period*

A Camp Along the Wabash River, 2500 B.C.

Archaic people lived together in small camps. They made their camps near rivers and streams so they could have water and food. They also hunted and gathered their food from the forests. When the weather got colder, there was not as much food nearby. Then they would break into smaller groups and move to a different area to find more food. They moved often!

The woman and the little girl are cooking mussels. They gathered them from the river. They will put the mussels onto leaves piled on top of hot rocks and steam them with water. Later they will open the shells, eat the mussel meat, and throw the shells onto the pile. These shells can be useful in many ways.

Most of the people in this camp are finding food. Some women and girls are collecting mussels from the river. Some men have been hunting and fishing. The dogs might have helped with the hunting, but sometimes dogs were pets, just like today!

# The Archaic Period

## Foods

Archaic people in Illinois had very balanced diets most of the time. As the seasons changed, the types of food they ate also changed. The search for food was an important part of their day. They hunted for animals such as deer, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, muskrat, and turkey. They fished in nearby rivers, lakes, streams, and ponds. They also collected frogs, turtles, and freshwater mussels. Many of the foods they ate came from wild plants. Seeds, berries, grapes, and pawpaws were gathered from the forests. Walnuts, pecans, hickory nuts, and acorns were an important source of protein and fat. Sometimes they grew plants like squash and gourds.

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**

*Can you find five foods?*

*Mussels, Fish, Pawpaw fruit, Berries, Animals*

*Can you tell what the little girl and the woman are cooking in the heated pit?*

**Use Your Imagination!**

Find the man who caught the fish. Do you know what he used to make his fish hook?

*Bone. He carved bone into the shape of a hook.*

*He could also fish with nets and traps.*



bone fish hook



deer



raccoon



pawpaw fruit



mussel



acorns

## Technology

### Tools

The Archaic people used different materials from nature to make their tools. They used stone to make many important tools. They shaped it into grooved axes for chopping trees. They used it as a scraper to remove the fur from animal hides. They also shaped stone into knives for cutting. The women used grinding stones to make flour or meal from nuts and seeds.

The men also shaped stones into spearpoints and dart points for hunting. The Archaic people used a tool that gave the spear much more power. It was called the *atlatl*, or spear-thrower. This allowed the hunters to throw the spears from a much greater distance.

Animal bones, shells, antlers, copper, and wood were also used to make different tools.

### Containers

Archaic people used materials from nature to make containers. They would use a dried gourd to scoop water from the river. They would weave plant fibers into baskets and bags. Many times they would carve bowls of wood. Archaic people even used animal skins as containers.

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**

*Can you name two ways these people caught fish?*

*With nets (made from plant fibers)*

*With hooks (made from bone)*



gourd dipper



fishnet



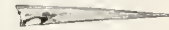
stone axe



scraper



spear and atlatl



bone awl/needle



bone awl



shell hoe

**Use Your Imagination!**

*What would they use to make a digging tool to dig the hole?*

*Shells and sticks*

*Can you think of four ways they could have used gourds?*

*For seeds (for food)*

*As cups or dippers (for water and food)*

*As storage containers (for food)*

*As rattles or shakers (for music)*



gourd jar

*What do you think the little girl will use to get a drink from the river?*

*A gourd container or maybe a large mussel shell*

## Lifestyle

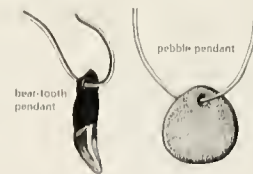
### Houses

People of this time usually built simple houses using animal skins, wooden poles, branches, and other parts of plants. They used cattail leaves to make large mats to cover their houses. These mats were easy to roll up and carry when the people had to move. They had to move often to hunt for food. Sometimes Archaic people would live under a large rock overhang. That type of shelter protected them from the rain and snow.

### Clothing

These people did not have many clothes and other belongings because they had to move often. When they left their campsite to find a new place to live, they did not want to carry many things. They did use animal skins, furs, and plant fibers to make clothes. Because it was hot in the summer, they did not wear many clothes.

Archaic people sometimes wore beautiful jewelry. Mussel shells, carved animal bones, animal teeth, and stones would have been used to make pins, hairpins, and necklaces.



bear-tooth pendant

pebble pendant

### Transportation

Archaic people walked most of the time! Some of them made dugout canoes for travel on the water.

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**

The woman and her little girl are cooking.

*What did the woman use to make her skirt?*

*Deerskin, or leather*

**Use Your Imagination!**

*Why is the little girl not wearing any clothes?*

*So she can stay cool*

*How do you think they built a dugout canoe during this time?*

*By burning, scraping, and shaping a huge log*



1573.3  
129pop  
c.3

504/1069

## *The Archaic Period*

A Camp Along the Wabash River, 2500 B.C.

Archaic people lived together in small camps. They made their camps near rivers and streams so they could have water and food. They also hunted and gathered their food from the forests. When the weather got colder, there was not as much food nearby. Then they would break into smaller groups and move to a different area to find more food. They moved often!

The woman and the little girl are cooking mussels. They gathered them from the river. They will put the mussels onto leaves piled on top of hot rocks and steam them with water. Later they will open the shells, eat the mussel meat, and throw the shells onto the pile. These shells can be useful in many ways.

Most of the people in this camp are finding food. Some women and girls are collecting mussels from the river. Some men have been hunting and fishing. The dogs might have helped with the hunting, but sometimes dogs were pets, just like today!



# *The Middle Woodland Period*

A Village Along the Illinois River, A.D. 250

Middle Woodland Indians lived together in villages. They still hunted animals such as deer for food, and they ate a lot of fish. This man is showing the woman the fish he has caught. The men in the lake are trying to catch fish with a net.

Some plants produce seeds we can eat. At first, people collected seeds from wild plants. Many years later, they planted some of the seeds and grew their own plants in gardens such as this near their homes.

This woman is collecting seeds from a plant and putting them in her bag. She will take them to her home to eat now or store for later.

# The Middle Woodland Period

## Foods

Middle Woodland Indians ate many different kinds of food. They collected seeds from the plants they grew in their gardens. Sometimes they stored the seeds and used them for cooking later. They used very creative ways to prepare and cook their food. Small seeds were probably ground and cooked in soups and stews.



duck

These people ate a lot of fish they caught in the lakes, streams, and rivers. They hunted waterfowl such as ducks and also ate turtles and freshwater mussels.

They also ate fruits and nuts. The nuts would be ground up, or they would sometimes be boiled in a pit or a pot.

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

*What foods do you see that you think they ate?*

Fish  
Seeds from wild plants and plants that they grew



sunflower

### Use Your Imagination!

Deer were hunted in the nearby woods.

*Can you think of any other animals that might also have been hunted or trapped?*

Rabbits      Beavers  
Squirrels      Raccoons  
Opossums      Turkeys



beaver

*Can you think of some ways the people may have cooked their food?*

In clay pots placed in the fire  
In pits dug in the ground  
Roasted over open fires  
Smoked over hot coals



cooking vessel

## Technology

### Tools

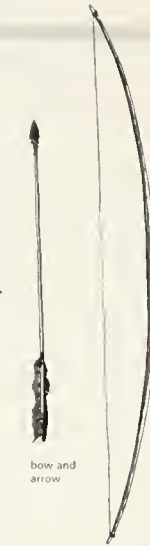
These people continued to use stones, bones, shells, and other materials from nature to make their tools. Some of the tools were the same, but many were different from those of the Archaic Period. One example was that the axe was now made with no grooves. The new name for this tool is *celt*. A very important new tool from this time was the stone hoe. The Middle Woodland Indians used the hoe to dig in the ground for planting their gardens.



bone needle

celt

Later, the Woodland Indians in this area began using the bow and arrow, a hunting tool that was even more powerful than the atlatl! They made stone points much smaller than spearpoints to be used with this new tool. This made hunting much easier, since the hunter did not need to be as close to the animal.



bow and arrow

### Containers

Native Americans continued to use natural materials such as wood, plant fiber, and animal hide to make their containers. The biggest difference from the Archaic time was that they were now making pottery. The pottery was made from clay mixed with crushed rock. It was then made into shapes and hardened in a fire. Pottery containers made a very big difference in the way these people cooked and stored food. These clay jars were so strong that they could be put right into the fire and used for cooking food!

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

*What type of container is the man using for the fish?*

A basket



basket with fish

*What is the basket made of?*

Wooden splints make from willow

*Name two ways you can see pottery being used in the village.*

To store water  
To cook right in the fire!



clay jar

### Use Your Imagination!

The woman is working hard to gather seeds from plants in her garden.

*What tool do you think she used to dig the holes when she planted the garden?*

A stone hoe

*Where do you think these Indians got the clay to make the pottery?*

They dug it from the banks of the rivers, streams, and lakes.

*Try to think of some designs the Middle Woodland Indians might have used to decorate their pottery bowls and jars.*

They drew circles, half-moons, triangles, birds, and other shapes in the soft clay.

## Lifestyle

### Houses



wigwam

Illinois' Woodland people lived in wigwams. They would use poles made from the trunks of young trees, branches, and mats made from cattail leaves to build them. First they would stick one end of the pole in the ground. Then they would bend the other end over and tie it to other poles in the ground. They would weave leaves from the cattail plant together to make large mats. These mats were then placed over the poles and tree branches to make the outside of the house. Inside, the wigwams had only one room. A fireplace was sometimes built inside for heating and cooking in winter months.



cattail

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

*What do you think this woman used to make her skirt?*

Plant fibers

*What do you think her armbands are made of?*

Animal hide

*What did she use to decorate her armbands?*

Pearls from freshwater mussels

### Clothing

Natural fibers were used to weave cloth for their clothes. Animal hides and furs were also used to help them stay warm in the winter. Sometimes Middle Woodland Indians wore beautiful jewelry. They made jewelry from teeth and claws from bears and other animals. Some jewelry was made from pearls from freshwater mussels. They also made jewelry from marine shells and copper, which came from outside of Illinois. They may have traded with other groups to get these items.



copper gorget

shell beads

### Transportation

These Indians walked most of the time! They walked to hunt, collect plant foods, gather their firewood, and visit nearby villages. Sometimes they built canoes for travel on the rivers, streams, and lakes.

### Use Your Imagination!

Clothes made of plant fibers and animal hides do not last as long as items made of stone, bone, or clay.

*Where do we get our clues about the dress, jewelry, and hairstyles of people who lived this long ago?*

Sometimes archaeologists find clay figurines from this time period. The figurines give important information about the way these people dressed and wore their hair.



figurine

1573.3  
129pop  
c.3

## *The Middle Woodland Period*

A Village Along the Illinois River, A.D. 250

Middle Woodland Indians lived together in villages. They still hunted animals such as deer for food, and they ate a lot of fish. This man is showing the woman the fish he has caught. The men in the lake are trying to catch fish with a net.

Some plants produce seeds we can eat. At first, people collected seeds from wild plants. Many years later, they planted some of the seeds and grew their own plants in gardens such as this near their homes.

This woman is collecting seeds from a plant and putting them in her bag. She will take them to her home to eat now or store for later.



# *The Mississippian Period*

A Town Along Mill Creek in Southern Illinois, A.D. 1200

Many Mississippian people lived in very large towns. These towns sometimes had smaller villages nearby. Tall walls made of logs were built all the way around the towns. The people also made mounds of earth in their towns. Houses were built on the top of the flat-topped mounds, to be used as temples or as homes for the leaders.

These Native American people chose to live mostly along big rivers, where the land was rich for farming. They planted food crops in large fields. This woman is working very hard in this huge field! Other people have helped her plant corn, beans, and squash. The tool she is using is a stone hoe with a long wooden handle.

The man is showing the woman the stone hoe he has made. Many of the men in this town are making other stone tools. They will trade some of these hoes for items made by groups from other areas. Many of the tools they make will be used for hunting, farming, and fishing.

# The Mississippian Period

## Foods

Even though the Mississippian people grew much of their food, they still hunted animals and gathered wild plants. One of the most important animals they hunted was the deer. They also hunted and trapped rabbit,



rabbit



turtle

Living near large rivers also allowed the Mississippian people to eat a lot of fish!



catfish

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

Find where the bean plants are growing. How is this different from the way we plant beans today?

The beans are planted right next to the corn plants! The bean vines grow up the corn stalk instead of a stake.



corn plant →

bean plant →

These people ate different kinds of berries they found in the woods nearby. In the fall, they would collect nuts such as walnut, pecan, butternut, hickory, and acorns.

The Mississippian people planted large fields of corn. Corn became a very important part of their diet and could be cooked in many different ways. It could be ground to make meal for bread or added to stews or soups. They stored corn in large pottery jars and baskets, or in pits in the ground. This allowed them to store food to eat during the cold winter months.

They also grew squash and sunflowers. Later the Mississippian people added beans to their diet. The Mississippian people ate a lot of plant food!

### Use Your Imagination!

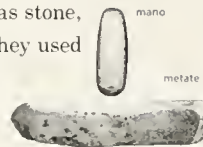
Many people worked in the cornfields. How did all of these farmers share the corn from their fields?

Some of the corn may have been given to the group's leader. The leader would take his share and then give some corn to each family. Some of the best corn would be carefully stored and used as seed for planting the next spring.

## Technology

### Tools

Mississippian people continued to make many of the same tools as the people before them. They used materials such as stone, bone, and shells to make tools. They used many different types of grinding stones to grind corn, nuts, and other plants.



mano

metate

They continued to make scrapers, celts, arrow points, and other tools from stone. They made huge knives that were six to eight inches long! These people made marine-shell beads by using tiny stone drills.



knife

Since the Mississippian people lived in one place instead of moving a lot, they did not have to be so careful about saving their tools. They brought large stones from nearby into their villages. When they needed a tool for scraping or cutting, they would knock a flake off the large stone. These were instant tools that were disposable. They would throw them away when they were finished using them. Stone flakes that others had thrown away were even used as tools.

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

Find the pottery container on the ground near the woman who is a farmer. What do you think it will be used for?

The long neck would be a clue that it is a water bottle. What type of tool is the woman using for farming?



long-necked water bottle

A stone hoe



stone hoe

### Containers

Mississippian people also made pottery for storing and cooking food. The shapes of the pots were very different from the ones made by earlier people. Sometimes they would design a bowl with the head of a frog, turtle, or duck on the rim. They also learned to make pottery into different shapes for special uses. A water bottle with a long neck kept the water from evaporating or spilling out. Large shallow pans were used to evaporate briny water so that salt could be scraped from the bottom of the pan. They also made plates, bowls, and jars. They would grind up mussel shell and mix it into the clay. This would make the pottery strong and keep it from breaking during firing.



duck effigy bowl

The Mississippian people still made containers from animal hide and wood. They wove cloth out of plant fibers and fur. They used the cloth to make bags to be used as containers. These containers did not last as long as pottery did.

Look at the men sitting on the logs. What is their job?

To make stone tools using other stone and bone tools.

This is called flintknapping.

### Use Your Imagination!

Look at the tall fence that is being built around the town. What type of tool was used to chop down the trees to build fences?

A stone celt with a wooden handle

## Lifestyle

### Houses



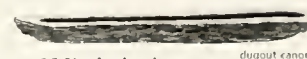
Mississippian house

Mississippian people built stronger houses than earlier people did, because they lived in them for years and years. The houses were shaped like a rectangle, and they were built very differently from houses built before. First, the people would dig a trench. Next, they would place log posts upright in the trench, to form a wall. Then they wove small sticks between the posts and used mud to hold the parts in place. They would make big bundles of long grass, called thatch, to cover the house.

They had to step down to get inside their houses, since the floor was lower than the ground outside. Having a lower floor was a good way to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. They would also make a fireplace in the middle of the house, to help them stay warm.

### Transportation

Rivers were very important in the lives of Mississippian people. The dugout canoes they made were large enough to carry heavy objects. Many times the people would trade salt, corn, special stone called *chert*, and stone tools with other tribes. They would use canoes or rafts to get these items from one town to another along the rivers.



dugout canoe

### Clothing

The Mississippian people left many objects behind that tell us about what they wore. An example would be marine shells engraved with interesting pictures. Their stone and clay figurines give us clues about their jewelry, hairstyles, and clothing.

Many times these Indians used plant materials and animal fur to make fibers and yarn. They wove the yarn into fabric to make their clothes. They still used deerskin for clothes and moccasins or wove plant grasses to make sandals. Some of the people wore fabric capes covered with beautiful feathers and shell beads!



ceramic beads

These Indians wore interesting ornaments and jewelry. Some of the men had tattoos that covered most of their bodies! Many of the people wore necklaces made from shell beads. Sometimes they wore pendants, called *gorgets*, on their chests and spools in their ears. They wore their hair in many different styles.



ceramic beads



ear spools

### Let's Take a Look at the Picture:

What do you think the man's necklace is made of?

Marine-shell beads carved marine shell gorget



### Use Your Imagination!

Why do you think there is a house on the top of the large hill or mound?

This was their church or temple, where special ceremonies took place, or where the leader lived.

1573.3  
129pop  
c.3

50411069

## *The Mississippian Period*

A Town Along Mill Creek in Southern Illinois, A.D. 1200

Many Mississippian people lived in very large towns. These towns sometimes had smaller villages nearby. Tall walls made of logs were built all the way around the towns. The people also made mounds of earth in their towns. Houses were built on the top of the flat-topped mounds, to be used as temples or as homes for the leaders.

These Native American people chose to live mostly along big rivers, where the land was rich for farming. They planted food crops in large fields. This woman is working very hard in this huge field! Other people have helped her plant corn, beans, and squash. The tool she is using is a stone hoe with a long wooden handle.

The man is showing the woman the stone hoe he has made. Many of the men in this town are making other stone tools. They will trade some of these hoes for items made by groups from other areas. Many of the tools they make will be used for hunting, farming, and fishing.



# *The Historic Kickapoo*

A Community Near Funk's Grove in Central Illinois, A.D. 1810

American Indians of the Kickapoo tribe lived in Illinois in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The Kickapoo moved at least twice each year. In the spring they moved to their summer villages near the prairie. Here they planted crops, hunted deer and other animals, and later harvested their crops. At times they traveled west to hunt bison.

After the fall harvest, the Kickapoo split into smaller groups and moved to their winter camps. Sometimes they built these camps in the forests, where there were many animals to hunt and trap.

This house is part of a Kickapoo summer village. Some of the crops have been harvested, including pumpkins and watermelon. The man has been hunting deer and is cleaning his gun. The woman is scraping a deer hide. She will trade the hide for beads, cloth, kettles, or other things she needs.

# The Historic Kickapoo

## Foods

The Kickapoo ate many different kinds of food. They grew crops in their gardens and gathered wild plants in the forests and marshes. They got meat from freshwater mussels, fish, turtles, birds, and mammals.

The most important crops raised by the Kickapoo were corn, beans, squash (including pumpkins), and watermelons. Women planted crops in the spring in fields near their summer villages. They stored much of their harvested corn in large pits in the ground.

Hunting was a job for men. The most important game animal was the deer. Deer meat was boiled in a kettle with corn and other vegetables to make stew. The men also hunted bison, elk, raccoon, and wild turkey.



bison



watermelon



corn



pumpkin

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**  
*Can you find four foods?*

- Corn
- Beans
- Pumpkin
- Watermelon

**Use Your Imagination!**  
*Look at the dried squash rings hanging under the roof of the porch. How do you think they were prepared to be eaten as food?*

*They were cooked in boiling water in the pot over the fire.*

**Why was it good to store food underground in large pits?**

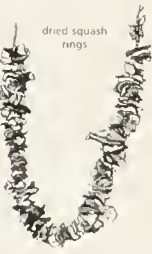
- The food would be cooler, stay dry, and last longer.
- In the pit, food would also be protected from animals that might try to eat it.
- The food would be hidden from other groups of people.



deer



corn plant, maize

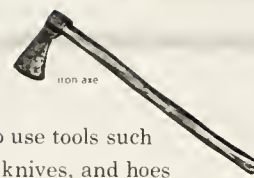


dried squash rings

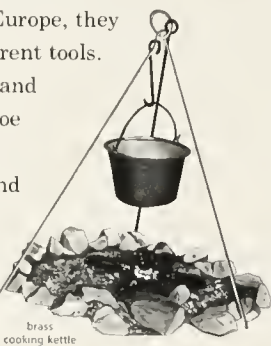
## Technology

### Tools

The Kickapoo continued to use tools such as stone arrow points and knives, and hoes made from stone and bone. When they met people from Europe, they began to trade for different tools. They traded their furs and animal hides for iron hoe blades and axes, metal cooking pots, knives, and guns. The guns made hunting animals much easier!



iron axe



brass cooking kettle

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**  
*The woman is using a metal tool that she got from European traders. What is she doing?*

*Scraping and softening the deer hide*

## Lifestyle

### Houses

The Kickapoo lived in different houses in different seasons. Summer houses had only one large room shaped like a rectangle. The frame was made of straight wooden poles that helped form upright walls. Then they used thick cattail leaves to weave mats for covering the walls. These mats kept out the rain and also allowed fresh air to pass through the house when it was hot outside. Woven mats were also used to cover

### Containers

Native Americans continued to make pottery for a time. They used clay pots to carry water and to store and cook food in. After the Kickapoo began to trade with people from Europe, they no longer made pottery. They used their new brass and iron kettles for cooking. The metal would not break and lasted much longer. They also traded for and used glass bottles and tin cups. They still used other natural materials for containers, such as gourds and wood. These lightweight items would have been easier to move than heavy pottery.

**Use Your Imagination!**  
*Look at the dried squash rings hanging under the roof of the porch. What tool do you think the Native Americans used to slice the squash?*

*A metal knife*

**Look at the wooden tool with the long handle. What do you think it was used for?**

*Grinding corn*



mortar and pestle

the porch. The people covered the roof with bark. The Kickapoo built smaller houses (wigwams) in their winter camps. These houses also had only one room, shaped like an oval. The frame was made of bent wooden poles. The walls and roof were covered with double layers of cattail mats to keep out the cold. Each winter house was heated by a small fire, which was near the doorway.

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**  
*Look at the winter house being built. What will they use to cover the sides?*

*They will cover the frame with cattail mats from the summer house.*

### Clothing

Before traders from Europe came to Illinois, the Kickapoo wore clothing made of animal hides, furs, and plant fibers. They used shells and dyed porcupine quills to decorate their moccasins and clothes.



cloth shirt

After they met the people from Europe, they sometimes traded their furs and hides for other items. Women then had cloth to cut and sew to make shirts, skirts, and pants. They also got wool and cotton fabric, wool coats, and silk ribbons. The Kickapoo also traded for ornaments, including silver earrings, bracelets, crosses and pins, and brass rings. They strung glass beads to make colorful earrings and necklaces. They also began using beads instead of porcupine quills to make decorations on their leather moccasins.



silver ring



glass beads



silver cross

**Let's Take a Look at the Picture:**  
*Find four items the man is wearing that he got from the traders from Europe.*

- Cloth shirt
- Glass-bead earrings
- Silver cross
- Glass beads on his moccasins

**Use Your Imagination!**  
*On hot summer days this Kickapoo family often worked in the shade of the porch roof instead of inside the house. Why?*

*The porch was cooler and provided better light.*

### Transportation

These Indians walked or used dugout canoes for travel. One family might have had as many as three canoes! These were made by cutting and carefully burning the inside of a large tree, to hollow it out.

Sometimes the dugout canoes were so large they could carry forty people. They could also be used to haul very heavy loads. After hunting, the men could use the canoe to bring home game animals. In the fall the people could use the canoes to help them move to their winter village. Even the mats and poles for the houses could be carried in the large canoes.

Later, the Kickapoo got horses from the people who came from Europe. Horses were a huge help to the Native American hunters! With them, hunters could travel much faster and farther when searching for bison and other animals.



horse

**Use Your Imagination!**  
*Why was it easier to hunt bison once the Native Americans had horses?*

*The hunters could travel farther, to where the bison were. The horses could carry the heavy bison meat and hides back to the villages.*



1573.3  
129pop  
c.3

504 11069

## *The Historic Kickapoo*

A Community Near Funk's Grove in Central Illinois, A.D. 1810

American Indians of the Kickapoo tribe lived in Illinois in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The Kickapoo moved at least twice each year. In the spring they moved to their summer villages near the prairie. Here they planted crops, hunted deer and other animals, and later harvested their crops. At times they traveled west to hunt bison.

After the fall harvest, the Kickapoo split into smaller groups and moved to their winter camps. Sometimes they built these camps in the forests, where there were many animals to hunt and trap.

This house is part of a Kickapoo summer village. Some of the crops have been harvested, including pumpkins and watermelon. The man has been hunting deer and is cleaning his gun. The woman is scraping a deer hide. She will trade the hide for beads, cloth, kettles, or other things she needs.

